

Iron County Register

BY ELI D. AXE.
IRONTON, MISSOURI.

CUPID'S PROTEST.

The world is whirling madly,
Receptions, balls and teas,
And invitations to be made.
Like leaves upon the breeze;
One meets the dear Four Hundred
At every turn, may be,
But still there's one face missing—
Young Cupid: Where is he?
The debutantes so lovely,
In gowns of white,
Behind a wealth of roses,
Are nearly hid from sight,
Mamas in richest raiment
Preside with beaming smiles
Amid the budding beauties;
Where's Cupid all this while?
Alone, with a corner,
With wings a-drooping low;
His arrows lie unheeded,
Unstrung his crafty bow;
"I'm sadly out of fashion,"
"Tis very plain to see
To-day that men and maidens
Have little need of me."
When two sit on a stairway
I stealthily draw near;
A mystic Browning murmur
Falls on my list'ning ear;
And where, with faint fragrance,
Conservatories lure,
And fountains play, they whisper
The tenets of mid-cure.
"Strange that those hearts so tender
Can all my arts withstand
Amid the strains of music
Of that Hungarian band!
While Klumper's richest roses
Shed fragrance everywhere—
But, oh, the bliss of stealing
One sweet flower from her hair!"
"Oh, debutantes so charming,
Who wield a mighty power,
Come, let me kiss your cheek,
Talk nonsense by the hour;
Give Cupid kindly welcome,
For still he waits to see
To modern men and maidens
The love of long ago."
—Ada Stewart Shelton, in Harper's Bazar.

EUGENE LAX'S GHOST.

How a Disagreeable Lover Was
Gotten Rid Of.

Can it be possible that I am mistaken?
No; it is the form of a handsome, gallant young man, restlessly pacing up and down the winding walks leading to an elegant mansion. Now and then he pauses to listen, and at last coming to a full halt near a rose-myrtle, imagines he hears a faint sound of footsteps. His over-taxed patience was soon rewarded by the appearance of a female figure.
"Eugene," whispered a soft voice, "Eugene, is it you?"
And the young man stepped forward, took the beautiful, soft hand, and raised it to his lips.
"It seems almost an eternity I have waited, Elsie," he said.
"I could not come sooner," she replied. "He would have me sing him song after song, and would not listen to a refusal. He is a cruel tyrant! Oh! I pity the woman who becomes his wife."
"Have you told your father that you would not marry this man, Elsie? If not, do so at the earliest moment possible, for I have no likings for secrets, and I must win and win you openly. Your father is a man of much ability and good sense, and would not give his daughter's hand in marriage to one man when her heart belonged to another. Therefore, tell him the truth, Elsie, or else I will tell him. I can endure these secret meetings no longer."
"You do not know my father, Eugene, as I do. He betrothed me to Felix Lax, a boy of twelve; he considers that as binding. But if Felix were a different man all might be well—I would need but to ask his aid to break the foolish compact. Ah! but he is so different from all other men. Though I have been as disagreeable as I dared, yet he has chosen to be in love with me, and is determined. Between themselves they have this night set the wedding day, and on ordered to be ready one month from to-night, Eugene."
"And still you said nothing?" asked the young man.
Elsie suddenly turned, cast herself into his arms, and, hiding her face upon his bosom, sobbed out: "I was afraid, Eugene, I could not save myself, but I leave it all with you."
"Then I will go to your father in the morning," said the young man with renewed hope. "I was only waiting for you to give your consent. Have no fear, my dear; all will be well."
His arms tightened around her fair form, while he imparted kisses upon her lovely face.
"You shall be mine," he said, "and I will love thee more and more. Do not be afraid."
And she was not, while his strong arms encircled her and his breath was upon her cheek.
But it is growing late and she must return to the house. The last embrace is taken, and Eugene, pausing by the rose-myrtle, sees her vanish in the surrounding darkness.
"On the morrow, thank God, I shall be free of this secret war," he said. "If Captain Warren refuses me his daughter's hand, when I claim it by right of love—"
The sound of footsteps caused the young man to stop; and, replacing his hat, which he held in his hand, on his golden curls, he turned and walked toward the outer gate. Elsie was in the act of leaving the gate, when he had just closed, behind him, a dark form stood in his pathway.
"What might be your name?" inquired the new comer.
"My name, sir, is one well-known in this vicinity, and is Eugene Lax. I was born here. You, it seems, have lately come here; and what might be your name?"
"It might be 'the devil,' but it is not. I am known where I came from, Louisiana, as well as here, as Felix Lax, and my business here is of importance. I am engaged to Miss Elsie Warren, by consent of her father. And more than that, sir, for some time I have noticed that something was wrong, and to-night I followed her; I saw her meet you, speak a few words and then fall sobbing into your arms. You have loved, and you can imagine my emotions. There is but one way to settle this affair."
"I am ready to settle at any time, sir," replied Eugene; "but let me tell you now that Miss Warren is my promised wife; the affair with you has not her consent at all, but is of her father's making. To-morrow I shall go to him and claim her. She loves me and will marry me. She may have been wrong in not being candid with you—and I have implored her to do so—but surely you will resign all claims to her when you know that she does not love you and asks you to free her?"

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—There is a Home of Rest for Horses in London, regularly incorporated and with a Lord for its president.
—The total length of streets, avenues, boulevards, bridges, quays and thoroughfares generally of Paris are set down at about six hundred miles, of which nearly two hundred are planted with trees.
—In Madrid when an actor has a benefit his admirers send to the theater little gifts, such as canes, slippers, game and such trifles, just as if it were a donation party, and the employees hand these gifts around among the audience for inspection, while next day a complete list of them is printed in the papers.
—They tell in Vienna of a female member of the family of a diplomat who, at a recent gathering, asked the Papal Nuncio to let her look at the diamond cross he wore on his neck, and then placing it about her own neck went to see the effect in a mirror before she returned it. The jewel is regarded as a sacred emblem by all Catholics, and they were horrified.
—The parish registries of England contain some queer names. Among them may be mentioned Foot Bath, Pascal Lamb, River Jordan, Morning Dew, Offspring Deer and Smith follows. One Too Many and Not Wanted James were the names given to the last two children in a large family. Edward Bing Tally-Ho Forward Jewett appears in one record, and from six to ten baptisms names are frequently found.
—Emperor William's riding horse is shod with a new and singularly constructed shoe. It is in two parts, and has on its lower surface a rubber-like composition, the object of which is to prevent the horse from slipping, thereby preserving the animal. The monarch, on being shown the new invention, at once ordered his favorite horse and sixteen others of his stud to be shod with it.
—A good deal of interest is being taken in the unprecedented efforts of the Victorian Government for the suppression of rabbits in the colonies. Upwards of one hundred districts in the northern and western parts of the colony simultaneous action is to be taken for the destruction of the rabbits, in accordance with the Rabbit Suppression Act, recently adopted by the Legislature. Poisoned grain is to be largely used, and it is estimated that fully seventy-five per cent. of the rabbits will be killed.
—A baker of The Hague recently refused to comply with the formalities of the census for a curious reason, says the Transatlantic. He placed before the eyes of the official who presented the usual blank a passage from the twenty-fourth chapter of the second book of Samuel, in which it is said that David, having ordered a census of the people of Israel, the Lord became angry and sent a pest that killed more than seventy thousand persons. And as the stupid official did not understand, the baker explained that the influenza which was making so many victims in Holland was certainly due to the census ordered by the government.
ABSURD CHINESE NOTIONS.
Remarkable Ignorance of Medicine in the Celestial Empire.
"Medical Science in China" was the title of a paper read before the Academy of Anthropology by Dr. Henry S. Drayton. The paper had been prepared by Prof. E. P. Thwing of the Canton Hospital, and was sent by him to Dr. Drayton to be read before the academy. Dr. Thwing declared that science did not exist in China. The usages of centuries had crystallized, and there was an abundance of theories, speculations, traditions and superstitions, but very little knowledge.
One cause of this was the Chinese language, the most meager and tedious of tongues. The Chinese scholar was different to other tongues because he was unable to study them in his own. But still greater obstacles than this were the ignorance and prejudice of the people. The method of study and the means of information afforded a Chinese doctor were difficult to procure. A single Chinese work on materia medica and therapeutics was in forty volumes with quotations from 750 authors. A work on plants was in sixty volumes with 1,715 engravings. As the dissection of the body is forbidden in China, the Chinese have the most absurd notions of anatomy and physiology. They believe that the food passes from the spleen into the stomach, that the larynx leads into the heart, that the soul is in the liver, and that the pit of the stomach is the seat of breath and the source of joy. They regard the skull as one bone, likewise the arm. They regard the right kidney as the gate of life, and hold that the organ is related to earth, air, fire, metals and water. Fire rules the heart, metals the lungs, water the kidneys, and so on.
There is not a square inch of human body that is nameless to the Chinese. An application is made on the dual principle of action and reaction, and herbs, incantations, idols and numerous other pagan means are used in treatment. The medical students study anatomy from the copper model of a man, which is pierced with holes and marked with the names of pulses. These pulses are divided into six wrist pulses, and each wrist pulse is subdivided into twenty-four others. Therefore the Chinese medical student has to study 144 pulses in order to become familiar with the Chinese system of medicine. The idol is also brought into use, and it is believed that the part in which the patient suffers may be cured by rubbing a corresponding part of the idol. Any body may be cured by doctors, and consequently quacks and impostors are abundant. Still the law holds that to prolong a disease is equivalent to stealing the money obtained from the patient, while having a case terminate in death may result in the doctor losing his head. In spite of all these difficulties the Chinese race constantly increases.
Surgery is utterly unknown to the Chinese, as they believe that any disfigurement in life will be transmitted to the next world—that a one-legged man will become a one-legged angel. And yet the Chinese are capable of becoming excellent surgeons, for they have all the coolness and deftness necessary to a surgeon. Dr. Thwing declared that the changes within the last fifty years in the practice of medicine in China had been marvelous. The invasion of European and American doctors had wrought a great change, and the Chinese were last gradually awakening to the necessity of a scientific study and practice of medicine. The people had learned where to find

relief, and were denouncing their priests and quacks. China was an unlimited field for women physicians, as a Chinese woman would suffer almost anything before she would submit to treatment by a male. Vaccination had been recently introduced, and was regarded as a blessing. There were also sixty mission hospitals in China, with eighty doctors in attendance, and an asylum for the insane, something hitherto unknown in China. The conservatism of the Chinese was a great barrier to advancement in the knowledge and practice of medicine, but it was being overcome slowly but surely.—N. Y. Times.

DON'T BE CARELESS.

How Every Body Can Help to Avert Much Evil is wrought by lack of thought As well as lack of heart,
which is another way of saying that carelessness is selfishness, and may result in as dire a mishap as if premeditated and prompted by malice.
Some one uses leaves on the spot and forgets where the clothes brush, shovel, tongs, hammer, rake, pitchfork, chains and scores of other articles used in common by several persons. Who can measure the bother, waste of time, and perhaps loss of temper this form of carelessness brings about?
What caused that long, lacerated scratch that woman's hand? Some girl or woman left a pin in the underclothing which she sent to the wash, and that ugly-looking scratch on the laundress' hand was the result. To use a pin in clothing where a button or string should be indicates untidy habits, but to leave the pin where it may do serious damage indicates something worse.
To leave bottles of poison unlabelled, or within reach of a child, may lead to fatal consequences and a life-long remorse. A mother was one day using carbolic acid, and left the bottle containing it on a chair for a few minutes while attending to other duties. Two-year-old Teddy seized upon it, and with the inquisitiveness of childhood, put it to his lips, and swallowed enough to cost the little life.
A tack pointed end up, or a rusty nail protruding from a board, is left where some one steps on it. Lockjaw has resulted in such cases.
In the house where a friend was staying, some one left a tin box of tacks on the stairs. In descending, she unwittingly placed her foot on the treacherous box, fell headlong and broke her arm.
"Oh, I'm so sorry!" said the guilty one, penitently. "I meant to take those tacks away."
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